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A Salute to the Flag Will Not End Our Responsibilities in Mexico.

President Huerta's decision to order the salute to the flag demanded by the United States will probably dispose of the Tampico incident. The crafty Mexican dictator undoubtedly realized that he had little to gain and much to lose by refusing a complete reparation for the Tampico blunder. He had already admitted that his subordinates were in the wrong and had offered a formal apology. By declining to salute the flag he could only hope to play for his own benefit on the violent anti-American prejudices of the average Mexican. But that advantage would have been trifling compared with the crippling of his resources and the shock to his prestige which would have resulted from the seizure of Tampico and the blockade of Mexico's other ports.

Huerta has yielded to the inevitable. But in so doing he has sought to obtain some diplomatic compensation. He is just as keen as General Carranza is about using offences committed against foreign flags, nationals and property as a means of securing formal political recognition. Carranza tried to do that in the Benton case, and Huerta now asks as a condition of his salute to the American flag a return salute, which he will constitute into the sort of acknowledgment of his official status which the United States has been resolutely withholding for the last twelve months. Precedent runs in favor of the return salute, and the administration will probably live up to precedent, even if it thus modifies to some extent its former determination to ignore Huerta's claim to recognition as President.

But in what does recognition really consist? President Wilson recently nominated two new secretaries of embassy at Mexico City. If they are presented to the Huerta Foreign Office recognition will have been given in fact, if not in form. If a return salute will gratify Huerta and put the United States in a better position to deal with him and the elements in Mexico which he now represents, that compliment may do something toward clearing up a diplomatically muddled situation.

The great fault of the Wilson-Bryan Mexican policy has been that it complacently refused recognition to Huerta, and then took that refusal as an excuse for neglecting the diplomatic obligations imposed on this country by its peculiar relation toward Mexico. Under whatever form—direct or indirect—American diplomacy should have been at work for a year past, measuring the situation at the capital and in the northern states, providing for emergencies and accidents and clearing the way for the granting of any demands which it might be called upon to make in behalf of its own citizens and other foreigners or on the broad ground of humanity. The mismanagement of the Benton case disclosed an utter lack of knowledge and preparation on the administration's part. Mr. Bryan should have known what Carranza was going to do before he started in upon the burlesque of the Benton Inquest. Officially or unofficially, the State Department should have given all its energies to mastering and shaping the situation in Mexico instead of standing afar off and hoping that things would go better after Huerta had "crumpled."

Even if the Tampico incident may be considered closed and an overt clash with Huerta's government has been averted, this country's diplomatic responsibilities in Mexico remain as urgent and onerous as ever. Much more will need to be done than has been done so far in the way of developing a genuine and intelligent policy, prepared to deal with the other crises which are sure to arise as conditions drift more and more toward financial exhaustion and anarchy. Massing the Atlantic fleet in Gulf waters was a good idea. But what is needed still more is a concentrated effort on the part of the administration to look ahead a month or two and have definite plans laid for meeting oncoming diplomatic and political, as well as military, emergencies.

The New Anti-"Dope" Law.

As if to emphasize the need for the Boylan bill to check improper sales of habit-forming drugs, just signed by Governor Glynn, came the conviction yesterday of a physician of fifteen years' standing for promoting this traffic. He had several houses or offices around the city, it seems, where "patients" wealthy and "patients" poor came to get not medicines to heal their ills, but cocaine, morphine, opium. This new law extends and supplements the anti-cocaine law passed through The Tribune's efforts. It provides a check on physicians, druggists and other dispensers of drugs which will make it harder for a "dope fiend" to obtain his stuff and easier to convict the illegal possessor of any of the habit-forming drugs. It is a good law. Credit for it is due to Mrs. Vanderbilt, Mr. Coulter, Judge Swann, Father Curry and the others who worked for it, the legislators who passed it and the Governor who signed it. It should be enforced vigorously.

Naval Vessels in South American Trade.

Secretary Daniels has reported favorably on the possibility of using some of the vessels of the navy to establish a line of communication through the Panama Canal down the west coast of South America. He says that there are several cruisers, scout cruisers, transports, colliers and other steamers which could be readily converted into carriers of mail, passengers and merchandise.

The full benefits of the canal will not be reaped if the United States does not secure a better mail service down the west coast and from Valparaiso overland to Buenos Ayres. With a moderately fast line a week to ten days would be saved in communicating with many important South American countries.

tries. Many attempts have been made to induce Congress to vote postal subventions in order to establish American lines to South America, but all failed. Congress might be convinced, however, by the success of an experiment with naval mail carriers that it was worth while to put this country into closer touch with Chile, the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador.

It will cost comparatively little to put into commission the naval vessels designated by Mr. Daniels. They may, in fact, more than pay the cost of operation. We should eventually have regular commercial lines through the canal. But it looks as if the best way to create interest in such ventures would be through carrying into effect the novel suggestion of Senator Weeks and Secretary Daniels.

The Century Opera's New Plans.

The changes in the Century Opera Company promised for next season by Mr. Milton Aborn, the managing director, should enable that organization to bring its product from good opera to excellent. It must be confessed that they are needed. This first season has disclosed weaknesses in orchestra and chorus which Mr. Aborn purposes to cure by the introduction of experienced and more highly paid chorus singers and orchestra men who will have an opera repertory. His staff of principals, too, is to be strengthened by the engagement of several new members of high qualifications.

As wise as the plans for these improvements is the decision to undertake a somewhat less extensive repertory than this year's. This will enable the company to have longer and more thorough rehearsals and so to give smoother presentations. Its first season has proved the company to be a popular success. Its second, carried out on the lines indicated by Mr. Aborn's announcement, should advance it in artistry.

Protection for the Birds Needed.

The migratory birds of this country have been deemed important enough aesthetically and economically—and properly so—for Congress to enact the Weeks-McLean bill for their protection. Enforcement of this statute is endangered by the apparent disposition of the Senate Agriculture Committee to cut off all appropriations for it.

In the House the appropriation desired for enforcement was cut in half. It would be a sorry thing for the Senate to finish the job and with it finish the effort to safeguard the country's birds from the ignorant and the pot hunters.

"Gath."

George Alfred Townsend in the heyday of his activities was a journalist of much force and originality. He was individual in his methods and his style sometimes ran to eccentricity. Yet in his long career as a political writer, versifier, historian and novelist he held fast to one very sound idea. That was that an American journalist should know thoroughly the history of his country.

He made a laborious study of American political men back to the Colonial period, visited their birthplaces or burial places, absorbed anecdotal material about them and was able to make them live again vividly in their surroundings. He had the zest and patience of an antiquarian in his reproductions of the figures of the past. One of his historical novels—"Katy of Catoctin"—a story of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry and of John Wilkes Booth's assassination of Lincoln, is crude in construction and scattering in effect. Yet in its fidelity to local color and in the use of historical material it is admirable. It had in it almost the makings of the yet unrealized true American historical novel.

This touch has been too rare a one in American journalism. Mr. Townsend stood apart in developing it and should be remembered for it. He wrote a vast amount of matter, but put into a great deal of it a ray of freshness due entirely to his affectionate interest in everything that touched American history.

The Feminist Apartment House.

Jeers, long and loud, will greet the Feminist Alliance as it erects its happy home. And calamity may be its ultimate portion. A Brook Farm in Central Park would be scarcely more difficult to manage.

Yet all of us may live to learn from the experiment, and much of the plan is far from the untrod path which at first blush it seems. Communal living in all its outward aspects has come a long way in this concentrated town without any feminists or socialists to bring it about. The typical apartment hotel here contains all the common conveniences which the feminists propose for their apartment, save only the crèche for babies and the schools for children. As for these last enterprises, it is worth noting that Mme. Montessori's first schools in Italy arose out of a precisely similar necessity. She organized her House of Childhood for the children of a tenement whose mothers, of necessity, had to be away at work all day.

Running any co-operative enterprise, however, is another and a ticklish affair. Moreover, most feminists of our acquaintance are tolerably individualists—certainly as much so as the average run of human nature. And, as has often been pointed out, the one real obstacle to all communism of every description is exactly this confounded human nature, which is never alike in any two of us.

Privilege.

The modern definition of privilege is getting to be anything some one else has and we haven't, and this definition wears so amiable an aspect, it is so consonant with the eternal fitness of things, that it has prevailed upon no less a man than Mr. Bryan himself. For Mr. Bryan, while travelling the country in the interests of peace, has impressed on his hearers that the railroads, the trusts, indeed, the moneyed classes generally, march under the banner of privilege; they take that to which they have no right, and thus rob the plain people. But he, while he turns out competent and experienced ministers and ambassadors, and replaces them with his personal friends; or while he resells at Chautauquus the time which the country has bought of him at the pitiful price of \$12,000 a year, he, we say, does not exercise a privilege. He merely exemplifies, in courageous and benevolent practice, the Scriptural profundity that a man can do as he will with his own.

In short, one is pressed to the conclusion that there should be one rule of conduct for the great fellow and another for the rest of the public. Mr. Bryan should preach and the public should practise. Indeed, were he tied down to the observance of his own precepts, his hatred of privilege might wither away, and without it where would he be? How could there be any lectures if Mr. Bryan did that to which he perpetually admonishes the capitalists—earned the money the state pays him?

The Conning Tower

PYRRHA THE FLIRTATIOUS

Horace: Book I, Ode 5.

"Quis multa gracilis to puer in rosa—"

AD PYRRHAM.

Who is the arrowcollar kid?

You're playing in the grot with?

For whom the zippy Leghorn lid?

Whom do you do the trot with?

Ha! Get me giggling, while I think

How smooth appears the ocean—

To him, the unsuspecting cink—

But oh! that wavy motion!

I weep for them that are not joe.

That think you sweet and clever.

Spear it from one who's in the know:

I'm off your lay forever.

Yesterday's treasured Tribune frontpaged a picture of four jolly tars, standing. The photograph was labelled "Light-Hearted Sailors Dancing." The hesitation, obviously.

BY HUERTA.

"Please, Mister, don't shoot;

I'll shoot, I'll shoot."

R. T.

Commercial acumen is keener in some than in us, but we know this: we should like to have the m. p. rights to the film showing Huerta saluting the great sure-fire theatrical property in the world.

MEXICO.

By MAURESS PERLMUTTER.

Endlich I am out of jail and believe me, I didn't had it so rotten a time there neither. I would rather be in a worse jail than this one than hear what Abe has got to say when I get home. I wanted to go in the jail, I suppose. But Abe, you couldn't no more argue with that feller than a duck's back.

Kriehlmann was going to get me out, but over a stick did he do. Somebody told me Kriehlmann's boss, Henry L. Stuttgart is sending him to see the Irish trade. Anyhow, here I stuck till Werther let me out.

Werther is in bad, understand me. The roscher goes around insulting everybody, like they are all elevator-boys. The other day he gets instructions he shall salute the American flag, but he couldn't do it, so Woodrow Wilson sends a lot of boats, but so soon Werther hears about it, he says sure he'll salute. It's like a bum credit system. When the firm's already got the goods delivered in their store, you can write you knew they was good for the bill, because what's the use throwing good money into the frying pan?

I guess there wouldn't be no schlagung here. Ich soll sorgen. I want to get back on the baseball games and see Reuben Marcus and Christy Mathushek. Baseball is a fine game for decent respectable people, but war is for loafers and lowlives. Me, I am fertig and oblige.

M. PERLMUTTER.

If we were a magazine editor, which we may be come about ten years after we arrive at the golden age, we should get the inside Mex. story from Old Walt Whiffen, the A. P.'s correspondent at Mexico City.

THE COMPLETE PRESS AGENT.

[From the film company's blurb on "The Spoilers"]
"The Spoilers," this thrilling romance of the gold fields of our great Northwest, if strong in sentiment, is steeped in fierce primitive fashions inspired by incandescent evils that invest the closing coils of a great conspiracy for robbing honest toil of its golden fruits, and it has braved privations with death ever imminent, day by day, through the long night of the Midnight Sun. It has the better and the brighter things in contrasting figures to the rugged miners, in sweet and refining as well as reliant and imperious womanhood, to give it interest in unusual ways—sobering and surprising as it touches the hearts and actions of rugged and battling men.

Mr. David Wallace, p. a. for "Omar the Tent-maker," says the office stenographer is a baseball fiend who is so sure of getting only one t in Mathewson that he won't put more than one y in Omar Klayyram.

THE COMPLETE SLANGLER.

[From "The Fair Maid of the West," by Thos. Heywood]
CARROLL. I take that's a she drawer. Are you of the House?
ROSS. I am, sir.
CARROLL. In what place?
ROSS. I draw.
CARROLL. Beer, do you not? You are some tapstress.

This is the town! A Forty-second street restaurant has "Stall-fed pigeon" and an upper Broadway hotel vaunts "Hot house lamb."

WE KNOW—WATERLOO, IA.

Sir: Years ago our present manager used to help open the mail. One day as he slit an envelope he noticed the postmark—Napoleon, Ill. The next letter following was Wellington, Ill. and the third—yes, sir, you guessed it. This is a true story, and as proof I will refer you to any standard atlas.

"I did not quarrel with him—just watched and waited."—From "Sailing To-morrow," by Mrs. Wilson Woodrow.

Yet it annoys Mrs. Wilson Woodrow to have people confuse her name with the President's.

IT WOULD PERFECTLY FASCINATE US.

F. P. A.: Would it interest you to know that Shakespeare, the w. k. B. of A. understood the joys and anxieties of contributing? Wot ye not my meaning, noble sir? Lend me your ears.

"And whether go they?"
Up to the Eastern Tower.
Whose height commands as subject all the vale."
—Troilus and Cressida. Act I, Scene 2.
D. C. C.

For the Not Quite There Club, Cliff nominates the folks who have coats-of-arms emblazoned on \$500 automobiles. For the same organization we beg admission for those who have coats-of-arms emblazoned on automobiles.

Obscure Thoughts on an Illuminating Subject.

BY PEM.

When grandma read

She bent her head

Over a light like this:

Now mother can see

To hand out tea

Over a light like this:

Oh, my, what progress the world has made! What d'ye mean progress? Well, a shade.

DO YOU KNOW? Artie is with The GAZETTE. Read his stirring critique of "The Beauty Shop" in Sunday's issue.

Cyrano de Bergerac had the columnist's great desideratum.

"At the last line," he cried, "at the last line I hit."

F. P. A.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

THE SALUTATION OF THE FLAG

It Offers No Sufficient Ground for War, It Is Argued.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: We know from the records of history how easy it is to tip the scales for war when certain conditions exist. Edward Everett tells us in one of his orations on what a trifling circumstance the Crimean War began.

The nations now are realizing, perhaps as never before, what serious business war is. It involves many precious lives, brings sorrow to thousands of hearts, leaves a multitude crippled for life and consumes millions of dollars—all of which are needed for man's upbuilding and comfort, not for his destruction. War, then, should not be invoked except under the most pressing and justifying circumstances.

We ask, then, shall a terrible war hang on the salutation of the American flag? Shall sentiment plunge us into terrible realities? Shall one man, Rear Admiral Mayo, have so much authority given him that he may, upon his own judgment, bring upon our nation a bloody and costly war?

God forbid! It is surely a time for calm, sober thought and a noble, Christian self-restraint on the part of the American people and their official representatives.

JOHN K. JONES.

Metuchen, N. J., April 15, 1914.

AFTER WATCHFUL WAITING

A Republican Hopes That Better Times Will Be Coming.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Irrespective of the economic and legal merits of the canal tolls controversy, should not every one who has a chance of linen or other more substantial interest in the country find much comfort in the rosy prospect that it will put out of business the doctrinaires now in charge of the government under the name of the Democratic party—an administration whose inefficiency and incompetence are without parallel in the history of the country, and whose policy of "watchful waiting," together with other silly and amateurish performances at home and abroad, has isolated us among the nations of the world, brought reproach upon us, and made it necessary for the President to beseech Congress to humble and humiliate ourselves before the world to placate the animosity of other nations, and so win their good will.

Experiments are costly, but sometimes worth the price; and if this experiment of a Democratic administration, attended as it is with the usual results of folly and incompetence, should restore the control of the government—as it will to the Republican party, which has for so long demonstrated its capacity to govern a nation in both her domestic and foreign affairs with sanity, patriotism and signal ability and efficiency, such a consummation so devoutly wished would be almost worth the price of the surrender of our sovereignty over the Panama Canal to Great Britain, and the pitiful and appalling destruction of American life and property in Mexico.

HOPEFUL.

Richmond, Va., April 11, 1914.

THE SAD LOT OF THE EMPIRE STATE

Republicans and Progressives Are Urged to Forget Their Quarrel for the State's Sake.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: It could prove no sincere and respectable protest to assert that the situation in this state is deplorable, disgraceful, alarming. The descent from Hughes through Dix and Sulzer to Glynn has been rapid, disheartening, tragic.

First, the party now in power in the legislature is a party of reaction, of the preceding administration. It went bitter tears over the poor taxpayer. It dedicated itself to economy and nominated Mr. Dix, a business man. We were to have a business administration. We had it, but Tammany did the business, on the usual percentage basis. It was good business for Tammany, but bad for the state. Mr. Murphy was Governor, Mr. Dix a respectable puppet—the taxpayer a helpless victim and Tammany the profit taker. Hunting was never so good for the Tiger in the Jungle of highways, canals and other state preserves. Then came Sulzer, the self-crowned William I. He confessed that he was the sole surviving specimen of the honest man in politics. He prated of his devotion to the interests of the common people. He went up and down the state uttering bombastic eulogies on his own past labors and achievements. But he did not forget to enlarge his own bank account from the political contributions of his blinded devotees. He was elected because the opposition had allowed itself to be rent in twain by selfish political leaders. But why follow the miserable

reason, for vetoing these bills. He signs the men's bill of the self-same character, but refuses to sign the women's bill on the plea of home rule. He must seek some other excuse. The one given is neither fair nor just nor valid.

A TEACHER.

Brooklyn, April 13, 1914.

Our Suddenly-Sensitive State Department.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Why is it that the slightest breach of international etiquette committed by the Mexican government evokes a storm of protest from our administration, while the precious Carranza and the still more precious Villa continue to treat our State Department with the greatest contempt and never a word is said? Is this a sample of the marvelous fairness with which we promised to treat all nations?

BENEDICT PRIETH.

Newark, April 13, 1914.

FRENCH ALLIANCE MEETS

Ambassador Jusserand Chief Speaker at Luncheon.

Jules J. Jusserand, the French Ambassador, was a guest of the French Alliance (Federation de l'Alliance Française) yesterday at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor. The occasion was the second annual meeting of the alliance. One hundred and thirty-one delegates, women and men, were present.

The ambassador congratulated the alliance on the progress it has made in interesting the people of this country and Canada in the French language. A feature of the luncheon was the after-dinner speaking in French by Americans not of French birth or origin.

Others who spoke, besides M. Jusserand, who presided, were Professor Cohn, of Columbia University; Professor Louis Delamarre, and Messrs. D'Angeles, Broussard, De Jean, Fuller, George, Hepburn, Mason and T. Tilston Wells.

N. Y. U. TO STUDY RADISHES

Course of Four Lectures on Gardening To Be Given.

New York University proposes a course that should appeal alike to the city man who longs for a garden, and the commuter who is having trouble with a one. Beginning on Tuesday, Henry Grieco, director of the department of school gardens, will give four lectures on the preparation of the soil, development of seeds, etc., including instruction in cooking the vegetables after the soil and seeds have done their work.

Mr. Parsons has decided upon the radish as the school fruit. Something concrete must be placed in the mind of the pupils, and the radish, he is pointing and telling, is supposed to give the prospective gardener an object lesson. After the student has harvested a crop of radishes, Mr. Parsons guarantees he will have justified his course of study.

THE STORY OF THE GUNMEN

Mr. Ruhl's Description of Their End Receives High Praise.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: On Monday I made a resolution to read no account of the execution of the gunmen.

Tuesday morning I purchased a Tribune, now my invariable custom, and noticed that Arthur Ruhl had covered the legalized murder for your paper. I glanced at the first paragraph and it was all off with my resolution. I read to the very last word Mr. Ruhl's strong description of the gruesome affair.

I think it is one of the biggest things I have seen done in a newspaper in years, and congratulate you upon having had the opportunity to set it up in type.

FREDERICK S. GREENE.

New York, April 15, 1914.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I wish to take this opportunity of stating that, in my estimation, the article relating to the execution of the four gunmen, written by Arthur Ruhl, was without exception the highest class newspaper article which it has been my good fortune to read in many years.

I have carefully avoided all the literature on this very distressing event, but something or other caused me to start Mr. Ruhl's article. Once I began it, I simply couldn't lay it down. It has been the cause of my becoming a daily reader of your paper, and I am quite sure that many other men will probably write you that they have the same appreciation of this literary gem.

HAROLD W. GOULD.

New York, April 15, 1914.

PROGRESS AND THE UNION LEAGUE

A Suffragist Flings Some Thoughts at These Conservative Gentlemen.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The other night the Union League Club, one of the star reactionary organizations of the world, went on record as opposing woman suffrage by a vote of nearly four to one.

The wealthy gentlemen who make up the membership of this exclusive club are not the only distinguished people in the world who are opposed to progress. The Shah of Persia was so manifestly annoyed at the normal progress of women that a few years ago he reaffirmed the Oriental dogma that women have no souls. The antipathy of the Sultan of Turkey to the better education of women, which presages woman suffrage, is well known; the Khedive of Egypt has announced, "It shall never come to pass; the Manicha in Chir, regard it as preposterous; the Bourbons in France have as much use for woman suffrage as they have for universal man suffrage; and the House of Lords in England, at whose impotency the world is laughing today, echoes the sentiments of ancient civilizations.

It is saddening to note in this land of "guaranteed" liberty and equality of opportunity the corroding effects of a few dollars. It is quite in order to ask the members of the Union League, who are such staunch adherents of monarchical sentiments, where they would be if the rights which they now so contemptuously deny to others were denied to their ancestors, may of whom arrived in this land of freedom in the hold of an immigrant ship?

A modern writer has well said: "Politics is natural and never artificial. It is always money versus muscle, dollars against mankind." For this reason Moses, a very great labor captain, led the Jews out of Egypt. This issue was being fought out when Walt Tyler led the men out of Kent to London town. The same old fight was on when the Carnegie Steel Company reddened the doors of the workmen with those working-men's poor blood.

Nations change; the issues never. Wall and Tory; Bourbon and Republican; abolitionists and anti-abolitionists; Democrats and Republicans; Radical and Conservative; suffragist and anti-suffragette.

SARA MOPIKE.

Yonkers Woman Suffrage Association.

Yonkers, April 13, 1914.

The Prevention of Fires.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: About the numerous recent heavy losses by fire on Long Island and elsewhere of the summer homes of the wealthy, could not some of these losses have been prevented by the employment of a few competent watchmen to constantly patrol the buildings as well as the grounds?

It is a poor economy that risks valuable property for the sake of saving the expense of a few capable men. None but safety matches should be used in such places, and all electric wires should be frequently overhauled to detect defective insulation. Furnaces should not be started until chimneys or flues are carefully examined by competent persons.

ANTI-FIRE.

New York, April 16, 1914.

MAY EXHIBIT ARTS

AT HIGH SCHOOL

Metropolitan Museum to Consider Plan for Gallery at Washington Irving.

The board of trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art will consider at its next meeting a plan to exhibit some of its works of art in the Municipal Gallery in the Washington Irving High School. The plan was discussed yesterday, following a luncheon at the school, by representatives of the museum, the Board of Education, the Board of Aldermen and the Borough President's office. Those representing the trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art were its president, Robert W. de Forest, and John W. Alexander and Daniel C. French.

Representatives of the Board of Education were Frank D. Wilsey, chairman of a committee appointed to further the plan; Dr. Ira S. Wile and Frank Conant.

The Board of Aldermen was represented by Joseph M. Hannon and O. Grant Esterbrook.

Mr. de Forest said after the meeting that the matter was still in a tentative stage and that he could not say what would be done.